

Serial No. 09/745,345
Reply to Office Action of March 11, 2004
Reply dated **JUNE 10, 2004**

Docket No. P-0172

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7, 9-12 and 14-22 are pending in the present application. Claims 8 and 13 are canceled and claims 1, 6, 7, 9-12, 15-17 and 19-22 are amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, the specification and claims were objected to; claim 21 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; claims 1, 5-12 and 16-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of Ostman et al.; and claims 2-4 and 10-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over AAPA in view of Ostman et al. and Stacey et al.

The acronym "CPS" has been defined at page 4, line 16 as requested in the Office Action. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

Further, claims 10 and 21 have been amended in light of the comments noted in the outstanding Office Action. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested the objection to claim 10 and the rejection of claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 5-12 and 16-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over AAPA in view of Ostman et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include subject matter similar to that recited in claim 8. In particular, amended independent claim 1 is directed to an ATM (Asynchronous Transfer Mode) cell transmitting device of an ATM switching system including a time slot input unit for switching a plurality of time slots, a packet processing unit for forming a CPS (Common Part Sublayer) packet using data corresponding to the switched time slots and a CAM (Content Addressable Memory) for receiving header information of the CPS packet and outputting an ATM buffer number. Also included is an ATM cell transmitting unit for storing the data of the CPS packet outputted from the packet processing unit according to the ATM buffer number outputted from the CAM, to form an ATM cell, and a controlling unit for performing a general controlling operation. Further, the CAM allocates a same ATM buffer number to include different time slots and CIDs in the same ATM buffer number. Independent claims 10 and 16 include similar features in a varying scope.

Thus, using a look-up table of the CAM 40 (see Fig. 2), for example, in a manner that different time slot numbers and CIDs are allocated for the same ATM buffer numbers, a plurality of time slots can be multiplexed with a single ATM buffer (see page 9, lines 10-13).

Regarding the subject matter recited in dependent claim 8, the outstanding Office Action indicates AAPA teaches this feature and cites page 2, lines 22-25 and page 3, lines 1-4. However, it is respectfully noted that the related art uses AAL1 which allocates only one

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time slot to one VPI/VCI and thus, when there is idle data, it occupies a channel so that the bandwidth efficiency of the ATM network is degraded (see page 4, first paragraph). Further, page 2, lines 22-25 merely state that the time slot number is read from the ATM cell header and the CAM 8 outputs the VPI/VCI corresponding to the input time slot numbered to the control logic 7. AAPA does not teach or suggest the CAM allocating a same ATM buffer number to include different time slots and CIDs in the same ATM number. Ostman et al. also does not teach or suggest these features.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted independent claims 1, 10 and 16 and each of the claims depending therefrom are allowable.

Further, the other rejection noted in the outstanding Office Action is moot as the independent claims have been amended to include subject matter similar to that recited in dependent claim 8.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, **David A. Bilodeau**, at the telephone number listed below.

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To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
FLESHNER & KIM, LLP



Daniel Y.J. Kim, Esq.
Registration No. 36,186
David A. Bilodeau, Esq.
Registration No. 42,325

P.O. Box 221200
Chantilly, Virginia 20153-1200
703-766-3701 DYK/DAB:knv
Date: JUNE 10, 2004

Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610